Amendments to the Claims:

Rewrite the claims as set forth below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A fluid collector comprising an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking.

2. (Original) A fluid collector according to claim 1, the average pore size defining a fluid removal rating of 1.7 micron.

3. (Original) A fluid collector according to claim 1, said saccharide comprising xylose.

4. (Currently Amended) A fluid collection device comprising ~~the fluid collector of claim 1~~ an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking and a superstrate, said fluid collector being generally fixed with respect to said superstrate, said superstrate having an

aperture defining a blood receiving opening and permitting access to said fluid collector.

5. (Original) A fluid collection device according to claim 4, said fluid collector having a first end and a second end, said aperture permitting fluidic access to said first end of said collector, said superstrate having a second aperture relatively proximal said second end of said fluid collector.

6. (Currently Amended) A fluid collection device comprising a pair of fluid collectors, each ~~in accordance with claim 1~~ comprising an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking and a single superstrate, said fluid collectors ordinarily not being in fluidic contact with one another and each being generally fixed with respect to said superstrate, said superstrate having a pair of apertures, each defining a blood receiving opening and permitting access to a respective one of said fluid collectors.

7. (Original) A fluid collection device according to claim 6, said superstrate comprising a second pair of apertures, each of said fluid collectors having a first end and a second end, said blood receiving openings permitting respectively fluidic access to the first end of one of said fluid collectors, said

second pair of apertures each being respectively relatively proximal said second end of one of said fluid collectors thereby defining a pair of gangs.

8. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 42, further comprising ~~the fluid collection device of claim 4 and~~ instructions for using the fluid collection device.

9. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 8, wherein said instructions ~~being~~ are integral with said device.

10. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 8, wherein said instructions ~~being~~ are separate from said device.

11. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 42, further comprising ~~the fluid collection device of claim 4 and~~ a requisition form, said requisition form permitting indication of the type of test to be conducted on the fluid to be collected by the device.

12. (Currently Amended) A [[test]] kit according to claim 11, wherein said requisition form ~~listing~~ lists a plurality of test types.

13. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 42, further comprising ~~the fluid collection device of claim 4 and~~ a dessicant, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen.

14. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 13, wherein said dessicant ~~comprising~~ comprises silica.

15. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 14, wherein said dessicant ~~being~~ is contained in a porous pouch.

16–19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 42 further comprising ~~: the fluid collection device of claim 4;~~ a lancet[[;]], instructions for using the kit[[;]], a dessicant, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen collected in said device[[;]], and a barrier film pouch sized for receiving said fluid collection device and said dessicant.

21. (Original) A kit according to claim 20, further comprising a requisition form permitting indication of the type of test to be conducted in the fluid to be collected by the device.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for collecting a specimen from a patient, comprising: providing a fluid collector, said fluid collector comprising an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential

wicking; and allowing said patient to bleed onto said for collector until at least a predetermined adequate amount of blood has been deposited onto said collector.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, said fluid collector being included in a fluid collection device that includes a sample adequacy indicator.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23, said sample adequacy indicator including an aperture that is spaced from the point of introduction of fluid onto said collector.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, further comprising sending the collector to a remote location for testing.

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 25, comprising sealing the collector in a barrier film pouch.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, said barrier film pouch comprising a laminar structure that includes a polyester film and an aluminum foil film.

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 26, further comprising adding a dessicant to said barrier film pouch, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 28, said dessicant comprising silica.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 25, further comprising receiving a results reporting form after sending said collector to a remote location for testing.

31. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, further comprising indicating a type of test desired on a requisition form.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for collecting a specimen, comprising receiving a fluid collector, said fluid collector comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking; and bleeding onto said collection until at least a predetermined adequate amount of blood has been deposited onto said collector.

33. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32, said fluid collector being included in a fluid collection device that includes a sample adequacy indicator.

34. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 33, said sample adequacy indicator including a aperture that is spaced from the point of introduction of fluid onto said collector.

35. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32, further comprising sending the collector to a remote location for testing.

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 35, comprising sealing the collector in a barrier film pouch.

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 36, said barrier film pouch comprising a laminar structure that includes a polyester film and an aluminum foil film.

38. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 36, further comprising adding a dessicant to said barrier film pouch, said dessicant said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid specimen.

39. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 38, said dessicant comprising silica.

40. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 35, further comprising receiving a results reporting form after sending said collector to a remote location for testing.

41. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a test and test results to a patent, comprising providing a kit, said kit comprising: the fluid collection device of claim 4; a lancet; a dessicant, said dessicant being present in an amount effective to provide a dessicating protective effect on a blood fluid

specimen collected in said device; and a barrier film pouch sized for receiving said fluid collection device and said dessicant; and results from a previous test of the patient.

42. (New) A kit comprising: a fluid collection device having an absorbent substrate coated with a saccharide, said substrate comprising a mat of glass fibers at least substantially coated with polyvinyl alcohol, said fibers defining a plurality of pores, the pores in said mat having a pore size effective to at least substantially prevent lysing of red blood cells while permitting at least substantial separation of serum from red blood cells via differential wicking and a superstrate, said fluid collector being generally fixed with respect to said superstrate, said superstrate having an aperture defining a blood receiving opening and permitting access to said fluid collector.